



*Guided by its mission “to minister, proclaim, and live out God’s shalom and Christ’s peace,” Bethany Theological Seminary seeks to provide educational resources for preparation of new ministry leadership for the Church of the Brethren and for ecumenical communions who value an Anabaptist-Pietist understanding of scripture and faith, for continuing education of ministry leadership, for enriching the gifts of lay leadership for the church and the world.*

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010 - 2011**

**Sending Forth** In May Bethany commissioned its largest class in over a decade, with twenty MDiv, MA, and Certificate of Achievement in Theological Studies (CATS) graduates.

**Curricular Enhancement** The faculty has been systematically evaluating curriculum with the intention of updating content, delivery systems, and the methodologies by which we assess student achievement. In the foreseeable future, we expect to see enhancements in curricular offerings, based on strategic plan objectives, in these areas:

- Missional church and evangelism from an Anabaptist-Pietist perspective
- Reconciliation ministries, including specific attention to congregational conflict transformation and congregational stress
- Making Bethany educational resources more available to more dispersed audiences, both through educational offerings in district and congregational locations and through webcasting or other electronic means

**Financial Support** In July 2011 Bethany opened the public phase of a financial campaign under the theme Reimagining Ministries as a way of providing needed support for initiatives growing out of our strategic plan and curricular review. Commitments from lead donors so far have been gratifying. Over the next three years, the curiosity, questions, counsel, passion, and financial commitments of many more supporters will be welcomed.

You are invited to support Bethany’s mission and ministry by:

- calling young people, mid-career people, and people of vigorous retirement (repositioning) age into ministry;
- encouraging those who work in other professions or jobs to come to Bethany for a semester or an intensive for biblical study, and/or to think theologically about politics, economics, the meanings of terrorism, and the way of Christ’s love;
- envisioning new forms of ministry for master-of-divinity-trained persons, such as mentors of lay leaders in small congregations, Academy student supervisors, or coaches of pastors new to the Church of the Brethren;
- advocating to include Bethany as a new or continuing ministry supported by your congregation’s outreach budget;
- contacting the Seminary with your questions, ideas, and interests;
- remembering Bethany in your prayers.

*Ruthann Knechel Johansen, president, and Carol Scheppard, chair, Bethany board of trustees*



## **Bethany and the Pacific Southwest District: Partners in education**

Students in graduate programs: 5

Students in the Brethren Academy: 5

Financial support: \$21,003.71 from your district and congregations, fiscal 2011

Thank you so very much for your prayers and continuing support of Bethany Seminary. To learn more about Bethany, visit our website at [www.bethanyseminary.edu](http://www.bethanyseminary.edu)